

Tale Feathers

May 2004

Volume 71
Number 4

The Hyacinth Macaw and Other Birds of Brazil

Tuesday, May 18, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. at the Powder Valley Nature Center.

John and Pep Tomasovic will present slides from their visit to Brazil's Pantanal, one of the largest and most important wetland systems in the world. The endangered Hyacinth Macaw, the world's largest parrot, will be a focus of the presentation. Estimates are fewer than 7,000 left in the wild, with more than half in the stronghold of the Pantanal. They will also discuss the Lear's Macaw. It is the world's most endangered parrot, with only two known nesting sites and fewer than 500 animals in the wild!

Open to all-members or not.
From the intersection of
Interstates 44 & 270, take
Watson Rd. to Geyer Rd. Turn
north on Geyer for 200 yds. to
Cragwold Rd. Go west on
Cragwold for 1 mi. to nature
center entrance on right.
Follow drive to parking lot.
Enter building through left
entrance.

Questions, call Mitch
Leachman at 314-739-5112.



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Confession

Mitch Leachman

I serve suet and thistle
Water and "Premium Patio
Mix"
And a corncob welcomes the
squirrel

Mockingbirds, flickers, star-
lings and jays
Eurasian tree, fox and house
sparrows, too
The food is for all; not one is
chased away

My backyard's alive when-
ever they're in it
The day yields to dreams,
thoughts and wonder
Yet their stay never gives
more than a respite

Sure it costs money and
takes up space
And I know they do not need
my handouts
Still I yearn to give them
more for life's race

The joy is pure and simple
The touch of wildlife is true
comfort
But my real motive is much
more revealing

I eat cattle from ranches
once home to prairie chicken
Live in a house made of part
forest and mountain
And burn fuel that pollutes
all of creation

Too much of my life has
been taking
Using up the gifts God has
given me
Feeding the wild ones has
become
Just one way I have started
repaying.

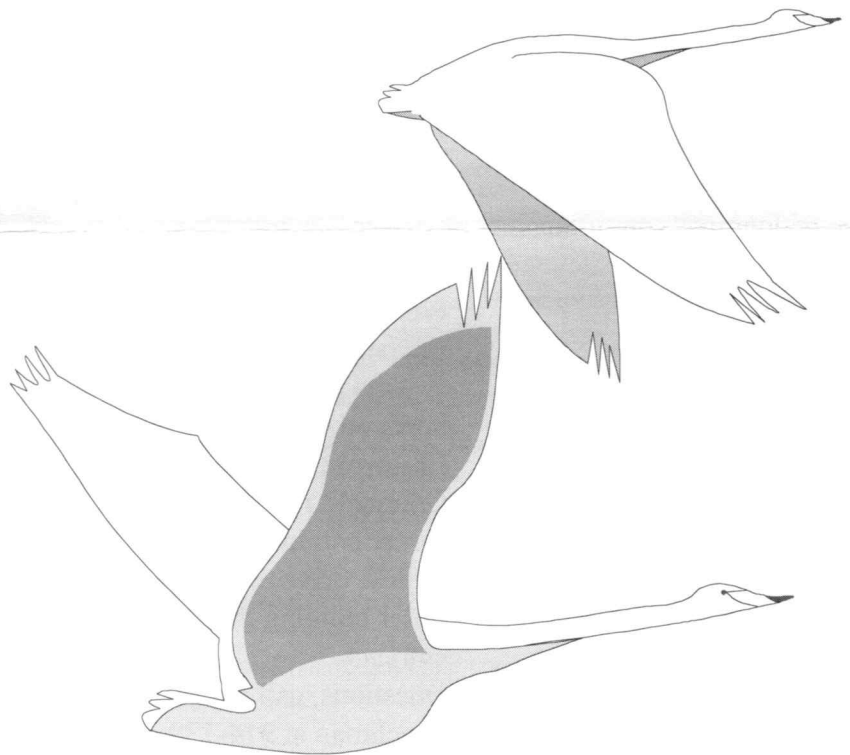
President's Report

Bill Salsgiver

Well, it certainly doesn't seem like my two-year term can be over already, but it is. The adage is true that time just keeps going faster. We got a lot done, but there is always more to do. I am proud of the effort of the whole Board of Directors, and especially of the Planning Committee, in the development of the recently approved Strategic Plan. You will be able to read the plan as it appears in the newsletter over the next several months.

I am also proud that we continue to be a voice of reason in our advocacy for nature. Our reputation for that is recognized in the St. Louis area.

I wish the new officers, Board members and the whole Chapter well.



International Migratory Bird Week May 2 -9

- Don't forget all of the special events planned for International Migratory Bird Week! Please refer to the green insert in last month's Talefeathers for a full listing of events. Also, visit www.stlouisaudubon.org to view the planned events.

The First Annual Audubon Missouri Birdathon

-Ken Buchholz, Audubon Missouri Development Director

Mike Grant



Get ready for the first annual Audubon Missouri Birdathon. On **Friday, May 14**, Audubon Missouri State Director, Roger Still will be birding throughout the St. Louis area (along with some of Missouri's top birders) to see as many birds as possible. The next day there is a special outing for all comers to join us for a fun morning of birding at Little Creve Coeur Lake Wetland in St. Louis (see article below) with Andy Forbes, Director of Bird Conservation, and members of the St. Louis Audubon Society.

What is a Birdathon?

You probably know how a Birdathon works, but just in case, here are the rules. What we do is ask our sponsors, people like you, to make a pledge for each species seen during the Birdathon. All you have to do is indicate the amount pledged per species or simply make a lump sum gift. **This year only, your pledge will be matched, dollar for dollar, by a special gift from the Packard Foundation! What a great way to double your support for the important work Audubon is doing!**

After we have completed the Birdathon, I will share the results with you in a special letter, send you a list of the species seen, and will let you know the amount of your tax-deductible contribution. (I estimate that we will see between 120 and 150 species. Once again, please make a generous pledge. If you would like a target, I would suggest \$1 or \$2 or even \$5 or \$10 per species.) All pledges will go directly to Audubon Missouri's ongoing conservation work.

First Annual Audubon Missouri Birdathon

Yes, I'll pledge \$_____ per species or will make a contribution of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number or email address _____

Thanks for your support! Mail to Audubon Missouri, 2620 Forum Blvd., Suite C-1, Columbia, MO 65203

For more information contact Ken Buchholz at 314-368-7639 or kbuchholz@audubon.org

Little Creve Coeur Wetland to be Designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) - Designation and Field Trip to be held May 15

-Ken Buchholz, Audubon Missouri Development Director, and Sue Gustafson, IBA Steering Committee

As a part of this year's Birdathon festivities (see related article), on Saturday, May 15, we will announce the sites in St. Louis that will be designated as Important Bird Areas. Because of its ecological importance, Little Creve Coeur Wetland will be an IBA. Special thanks to Jim Malone who nominated the site and provided extensive data on the species utilizing this ecologically significant wetland complex. The IBA designation and a fun morning of birding for all will be held at Little Creve Coeur Wetland. We'll meet at 7:00a.m. (first group for early birders) and/or again at 9:00 a.m. for the second group of birders. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Bottled water, coffee and snacks will be provided. Directions: Take Olive west to Creve Coeur Mill Rd. Go north on Creve Coeur Mill Rd to the Seeger Golf Driving Range. Turn left into the driving range road and follow it 200 yards or so until you reach two large red utility buildings where you will be greeted by Audubon Missouri staff and members of the St. Louis Audubon Society Board of Directors. Hope to see you all there! Question, contact Ken (info above) or Sue at 314-968-8128.



The Green Center Blooms with New Arts and Nature Camp

The Green Center will offer Arts and Nature Camps for youth and a Teachers' Professional Development Program in University City this summer, June 21st-25th. The programs will meet at the Green Center's headquarters, which offers over 30 acres of outdoor laboratory spaces including learning/demonstration gardens, a prairie, a wetland, and a shady woodland.

A Professional Development Program for Teachers will be offered the same week, giving teachers an in-depth understanding of the Green Center's educational potential, as well as an opportunity to explore ways to integrate arts and science curriculum in the classroom. Optional graduate credit for 2 hours from UMSL will be offered. Both the Camps and the Professional Development Program will meet 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Camps will be divided into two age groups. Children entering 1st- 3rd grade will enroll in "Make A Splash!" while those entering 4th-6th grade will enroll in "Earth, Wind, and Water." Before-camp and after-camp care will be available. Registration is now open for both programs. Contact the Green Center for more information at 314-725-8314 or at www.thegreencenter.org.

St. Louis Audubon Society

Strategic Plan

2004-2006

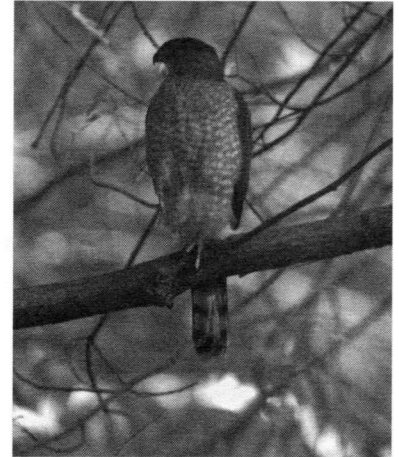
The St. Louis Audubon Society has enjoyed a long and distinguished history since it began as the St. Louis Bird Club in 1916. In 1948, when the National Audubon Society decided to organize a network of local chapters, the St. Louis Bird Club joined immediately and became the first of the now over 500 chapters. With about 2000 members in the metropolitan area, the St. Louis Audubon Society ranks among the largest chapters in the United States.

Strategic planning has helped guide the evolution of the St. Louis Audubon Society over the last two decades into a highly respected conservation organization. This planning process began in October 1987 with the formation of a planning committee chaired by Dave Tylka. After fourteen monthly meetings, our chapter published its first mission statement, goals, objectives and strategies for the five-year period from 1989 to 1994. In 1997, Jerry Miller then led an effort to revise the original chapter by-laws. Another planning committee then produced a second strategic plan for the years 1998 to 2003, which included detailed job descriptions matched to revised by-laws.

In the summer of 2003, Chapter President Bill Salsgiver organized a third strategic planning process. The planning committee consisted of Anne Bolte, Joe Eades, Jerry Miller, Mary Lou Miller, Bill Salsgiver, Mike Thelen, and Linda Tossing, and was facilitated by Dave Tylka. To help this committee, the Board of Directors developed chapter priorities, which were incorporated into programmatic and operational components of a three-year strategic plan. After final revisions from the Board, the following plan will help the St. Louis Audubon Society to more effectively educate and inform our community about birds and other wildlife and their habitats.

MISSION STATEMENT

Help our community sustain biological diversity through nature



Mike Grant

GOALS

To foster an awareness and understanding of birds and other wildlife and their habitats.

To educate our community so people can make informed decisions about the natural world.

Attention new members: Birding help is available

Paul Bauer

Many members are interested in birds and birding. You attend the numerous scheduled field trips, and many also go bird watching on your own. Did you know about an exceptional local book to help you in your quest for birds?

BIRDS OF THE ST. LOUIS AREA

Where and when to find them.

Revised edition 998, 202 pages

Over 4000 copies have been sold; that speaks well for the value.

This book is not another bird identification guide; it complements the field guides with specific advice on where and when to find birds in the St. Louis area each month of the year.

More than 125 locations to observe birds are described' all within 50 miles of the city limits including eastern Missouri and southwestern Illinois.

Detailed directions to each location are provided and supported with 17 color maps. Each major site description provides: attractions for that site; directions; description of site habitats; best specific sites for the seasons, birds to be expected, and special birds previously seen there; and general information.

The relative commonness of 343 bird species and their changes in abundance throughout the seasons is displayed graphically on 13 color pages of bar-graphs. This pin points arrival and departure dates for migrants using field data since 1940.

Reviews of 380 species that have been reported in the area include most common locations sighted, and historical information on the more rare species.

Other useful sections include: glossary of named places; local jargon and abbreviations; habitat index for popular birding locations; a timetable for best birding locations; checklist; historical details and advice on finding St. Louis' unique Eurasian Tree Sparrow; enjoying birds at home; references and an index.

This book was prepared by five authors with more than 200 years of combined local birding experience at the time of publication.

Where can you obtain this great book? Try any of the local Wild Bird shops, Missouri Botanical (Shaw's) Garden book shop and the Powder Valley Nature Center. By mail: order Item #308 from the American Bird Association; call 800-634-7736



Bird Box Monitoring at Two Rivers NWR Saturday, May 22

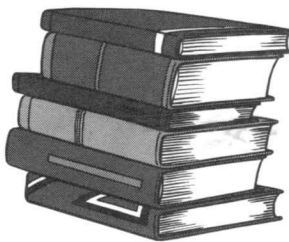
Calling all "citizen scientists." Join us on Saturday, May 22 as we kick-off the third year of our Prothonotary Warbler nestbox monitoring program at the Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge outside Grafton, Illinois.

We will be training anyone interested in helping to monitor the boxes around the Gilbert Lake area. Please help us assist this very beautiful migratory songbird whose numbers are dramatically declining. No experience necessary and the amount of time you commit to monitoring throughout the breeding season will be entirely up to you.

We will work from about 9a to 12p, with lunch afterward in Grafton. Bring boots and drinking water-we will provide the training materials.

Call Mitch Leachman at (314) 739-5112 for more info and to sign up.

Book Club News



Please contact Dency Kahn @ 314-997-4555 or dency@vierck.us even if you already have. Please tell me what zip or town you are in so we can try to get a central meeting place, and whether you prefer a daytime or evening group. I would like to meet late May or early June if possible, even if it's only to organize to start up in August or September. If it's not just to organize, our book is *Red-Tails In Love*, by Marie Wynn.

You might want to begin considering possible days and times to meet, and think of a book you would want to suggest for the group. Also, if you can suggest a meeting place, preferably not a home, that would be appreciated. How often would you want to meet?

Thanks for your input. Hopefully this will see us launched.

WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY'S SUNRISE WITH SONG-BIRDS

Summer Spectacular dates: June 12 & 20; July 17 & 25; Aug. 7 & 15

Time: Check-In begins at 7am; tour starts promptly at 7:30am

Cost: \$5 per adult " \$3 per child under 12 " 10% discount for

WBS Sponsors. Hike our majestic grounds and experience

America's second most popular hobby BIRDING! WBS'

Wildlife Experts lead the tours and discuss birding basics

and how to spot and identify our many diverse species.

Regardless of your birding experience level this leisurely hike

will be rewarding. Dress for the weather, spotting scope or

binoculars recommended. **LIMITED AVAILABILITY,**

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!

WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY'S BIRDS IN CONCERT

Date: Every Thursday in August (5th, 12th, 19th, 26th)

Time: 7pm

Cost: FREE

A variety of musical acts and themes will be presented. Live birds and free-flight demonstrations will be incorporated into the night's activities. Bring a picnic dinner to enhance the magic of our outdoor amphitheater for this special concert series!

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2003 - 2004

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Attention!

The deadline for the August issue is

July 10. Send inquiries to Anne by

E-mail ambolte@swbell.net

phone 314.832.0938

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Join the St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society

As a joint member with National Audubon, you will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine (Audubon) as well as St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter (Tale Feathers). Now you also have the opportunity to join only the St. Louis Audubon Society, receive Tale Feathers, and participate in the educational and conservation activities of St. Louis Audubon. There is no distinction between individual and family membership. Dues cover all members at the same address. For information, call (314) 822-6595.

St. Louis Audubon Society / National Audubon Society -- Membership Application

Use this form to join St. Louis Audubon / National Audubon

For joint membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

____ Membership / \$35 For renewal in the National Audubon Society we recommend that you use the forms supplied by National Audubon. For more information contact Anne Rankin Horton at 636-256-3402

____ Introductory Membership / \$20 ____ Special Two-Year Introductory Membership / \$30

____ Senior Citizen (62 and older) / \$15 (New and renewal) ____ Student / \$15 (New and renewal)

Membership in only the St. Louis Audubon Society. Write checks payable to **SLAS**. Mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

____ Local Chapter Membership only (St. Louis Audubon Society), Introductory and renewal. / \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ NO1 7XCH